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IT LOOKS FANCY, BUT THIS BEEF ROAST REQUIRES LITTLE WORK {page 23}



HOME WRECKER
CHARLIZE THERON RETURNS TO DARK SIDE IN NEW FILM {page 14}



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Wednesday, December 14, 2011
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.

Council OK's 5.4 per cent tax hike

- City services to cost typical Edmonton household \$5 a day in 2012
- Draft operating budget proposed cuts to cap hike at 4.5 per cent



HEATHER MCINTYRE
@METRONEWS.CA

Edmontonians will face a higher tax increase next year than initially planned, as city council voted 12-1 yesterday in favour of a 5.39 per cent hike.

"We put back in the flowers, the lighting, the transit, the alley cleaning," said Mayor Stephen Mandel. "But it's not easy when you have unlimited demands and limited capacity."

The \$1.88 billion operating budget requires the tax hike, which consists of 3.89 per cent for civic services and 1.5 per cent for neighbourhood renewal. The hike also includes 0.75 per cent for major capital projects — a north-west police campus, new Walderdale Bridge and land for the southeast LRT line.

That means the average Edmonton homeowner will pay an additional \$93 next year, while

utilities also increase \$87.

Mandel said he was pleased with how council came together to both add and subtract in a "complicated and difficult budget."

"Cities are about delivering services to people," he said. "It's not about just numbers."

But not every councillor agreed with the increase.

"I wonder how many folks out there will see a 5.4 per cent hike in their wages," said Coun. Kerry Dionne, the only one not to vote in favour.

He proposed trimming the budget by \$2.8 million through cuts to consulting, hosting, surveys, postage and more, but the motion failed.

Others said considering 68 of the 70 people who spoke at a public hearing asked for funding and not cuts, the budget was well done.

"We balanced the situation," said Coun. Kim Krushell. "We did very well."

Adding and Subtracting

- Reinstated was funding for street-light bulb replacement, increased mosquito control, alley cleaning, flower planting, transit hours, tree lighting and clearing trails of snow.
- Council also funded new police officers, bus service to the airport, and violence-reduction strategies through Neighbourhood Empowerment Teams and community-based organization REACH.
- Cuts in the budget included no staff increases for 311, nor nearly \$400,000 in funding to help with attracting major events to the city.
- Many user and licence fees are going up, including an adult transit fare, from \$2.85 to \$3.

High. Honours



► Danielle Pacholuk, 7, takes the driver's seat as Junior Chief for a day in a Fire Station 1 pump truck yesterday.

SHELLEY WILLIAMSON/METRO

Hail to the junior fire chief

The pint-sized honorary boss got to meet Fire Chief Ken Block and Sparky the Fire Dog before sharing her holiday candle-safety tips with the media.

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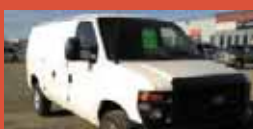
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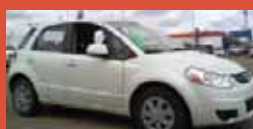
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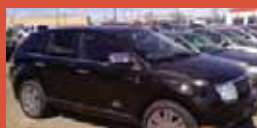


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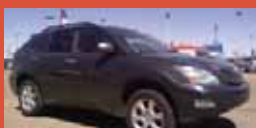
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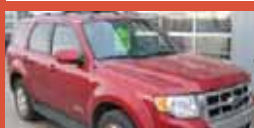
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Failing grade for November break

SHELLEY WILLIAMSON/METRO

► EPSB trustee withdraws motion for modified calendar ► Board approves a 'traditional' schedule



SHELLEY WILLIAMSON
@METRONEWS.CA

Modifying the Edmonton Public Schools class calendar got a fail yesterday, after the trustee who had made the motion last spring withdrew it from consideration.

The EPSB trustees then voted in favour of a "traditional" 2012-13 calendar.

Trustee Ken Shipka did not give reasons why, but vice-chair Sarah Hoffman said it came down to insufficient proven benefits to changing the status quo.

"The decision was made that the traditional calendar, without a week in November, without starting additional days early, would be the position for Edmonton Public for 2012-13," said Hoffman.

The dates are not set in

The feedback

- An EPSB opinion survey on an earlier school start and fall break netted 14,000 responses, with 46.9 per cent opposed and 45.1 per cent in favour.
- Staff groups and high school students were more in favour than other groups.
- Elementary school students' parents made up the majority of those opposed to the proposed change, at 57.4 per cent.

stone, she added, noting four public schools use modified calendars.

"Principals can approach the superintendent's office and ask for a modified calendar if it seems that would be in the best interest in supporting student achievements at your individual schools."



► EPSB vice-chair Sarah Hoffman listens to administration feedback on a traditional calendar for 2012-13, which the board voted to approve yesterday.

Money was also a consideration.

"We are just in a posi-

tion where we're not willing to take on any sort of increased financial liabili-

ties if we're not going to see measured benefits for them," said Hoffman.

Human Rights Act repeal sought by school board

Edmonton Public Schools trustees yesterday voted to send a letter to the province asking for it to repeal a section of the Human Rights Act related to teachers and the mention of sex.

EPSB trustee Heather MacKenzie motioned for the missive, arguing section 11.1 pertains to educa-

11.1 Section 11.1 of the Human Rights Act requires teachers to get parental approval to teach sexual or religious material.

tion, not human rights, and limits teachers from "preparing students for liv-

ing in a complex and diverse world."

Trustees first voted down a motion by vice-chair Sarah Hoffman to defer action until after the new Education Act was inked, then voted to pen the letter expressing the board's stance.

● SHELLEY WILLIAMSON

News in brief

Man taken in after shooting

ARREST. A man, 24, is facing charges after firing shots at two others near a north Edmonton convenience store at 3:30 a.m. yesterday, said police.

The shooter fled, surrendering at a 132

Avenue and 62 Street residence at 7 a.m.

● METRO

Rifle left at thrift store

ODDITY. Volunteers at Knox United Church in Didsbury were shocked to find a sawed-off rifle at the bottom of a bag of donated clothing. RCMP will test the rifle for links to any crimes.

● METRO

1

news



Thinking of a career reboot? The Challenge Factory offers its clients the novel opportunity to "test drive" careers. Scan code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

Transit riders in the U.K. are doing their best to keep pace with their Canadian counterparts in the bizarre-behaviour department. Video at metronews.ca.



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INVESTIGATION

Drumheller Institution death probed

Police and corrections officials are investigating after a man was found unresponsive in his Drumheller Institution cell Monday evening.

According to officials, correctional officers immediately performed CPR on Dang Akays Dang, 27, when they found him. Dang was serving a two-year sentence for possession for the purpose of trafficking. His sentence began Aug. 23, 2010.

The Correctional Service of Canada will review the circumstances surrounding the death, officials said.

● METRO

Communities share \$1.2M for wildfires

Almost two dozen communities will share nearly \$1.2 million from the Alberta government to help protect them from forest fires.

The money is intended to finance projects such as tree thinning to reduce the risk of wildfires.

There were 1,200 fires

this year that burned through almost 9,500 square kilometres and threatened several communities.

The most damage was in Slave Lake where a mid-May fire destroyed one-third of the town and hundreds of homes and businesses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



For more local news visit metronews.ca/edmonton

Redesigning the strip mall



► Exhibit organizer Merle Patchett browses through the idea for a strip mall in Edmonton's Queen Mary Park neighbourhood yesterday at Enterprise Square.

- Competition aims to add some shine to stores losing their lustre
- Small-scale strip malls were built from the 1950s to the 1970s



HEATHER MCINTYRE
@METRONEWS.CA

This design competition is all about strip appeal.

Visions for reinventing the neighbourhood strip mall were unveiled at Enterprise Square yesterday by the University of Alberta's City-Region Studies Centre.

The idea is small-scale malls need to be more walkable, sustainable and relevant to the communities they are in, as retail focus has shifted to larger-scale shopping districts.

"It's clear by the empty spaces," said Rob Shields, art and design professor

and CRSC director. "It's a dated concept."

More than 100 submissions came in to strip-appeal.com from 11 countries — including for locations in Edmonton.

One design envisions food trucks with social media alerts being sent out to the area. Others call for a parking lot market and portable spaces instead of permanent shops.

"The strip mall is so general, it can be found everywhere in the world," said Merle Patchett, CRSC post-doctoral fellow. "And it's problematic everywhere in the world."

There are hundreds in Edmonton, estimated Shields, adding 50 are known to be derelict.

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Gunman kills Belgian shoppers

► Hundreds flee as grenades lobbed into market, bullets fired
► Attacker found dead at scene

Summoned for questioning by Belgian police, a man with a history of weapons and drug offences left home armed with hand grenades, a revolver and an assault rifle. Stopping at a central square filled with holiday shoppers, he lobbed three grenades into the crowd, then opened fire.

Four people were killed, including an 18-month-old toddler, and 122 were wounded in the assault yesterday.

Authorities said the shooter also died.

The midday attack in the eastern Belgian city of Liege sent hundreds of panicked shoppers stampeding down the cobbled streets of the

Italy attack

► In Italy yesterday, a man opened fire in an outdoor market in Florence, killing two vendors from Senegal and wounding three other immigrants before killing himself. Investigators identified the attacker as 50-year-old Gianluca Casseri, and RAI state TV said he was known to police for having participated in racist marches by an extreme right-wing group.

old city. Belgian authorities identified the shooter as Nordine Amrani, a 33-year-old Liege resident.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Police officers guard the street, following a grenade attack in the city centre of Liege, Belgium, yesterday.

Brother made up story: Crown

A Montreal family accused of killing three children concocted a story that could help absolve them of guilt and told a surviving child to go along with it — but he slipped up, prosecutors alleged in court yesterday.

Mohammad Shafia, 58,

his wife Tooba Yahya, 42, and their son Hamed, 20, have told police that the night of the deaths, their eldest daughter came into their motel room to borrow the car keys.

The Crown alleges the women were killed before

the family checked into the motel.

Another brother was under cross-examination yesterday, and Crown attorney Gerard Laarhuis hammered him about his statement to police that Zainab came to the motel room that night

to borrow his cellphone. Laarhuis suggested that never happened, and that inconsistent statements to police that it might have been his mother who wanted to borrow his phone, point to a mistake on his part. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inmate takes prison worker hostage

A corrections employee taken hostage by an inmate was freed after a nine-hour ordeal yesterday at a federal prison in Quebec's Eastern Townships.

The inmate barricaded himself in a room in the

Cowansville penitentiary, locking himself there with the worker who was in the area with him.

Corrections Service of Canada said nobody was injured in the incident at the medium-security prison, which holds 410 male inmates.

Authorities wouldn't confirm the victim was female. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Sheldon Kennedy testifies on Capitol Hill yesterday. "Empower the bystanders," he said, "and you'll be taking an important first step in breaking the silence on child abuse."

Kennedy's crusade

► Ex-NHLer urges U.S. lawmakers to end the code of silence on abuse ► People who suspect something is wrong must act on their 'gut feelings,' he declares

Sheldon Kennedy stepped into the U.S. spotlight yesterday, urging lawmakers to "empower" anyone who suspects children are being sexually abused.

Under the glare of TV cameras, the former NHL player matter-of-factly told of the ordeal he suffered at the hands of his once-trusted hockey coach, Graham James.

"My abuser was International Hockey Man of the Year," Kennedy, 42, told the Senate hearing examining child abuse laws.

"In Canada, that gave him almost God-like status. Sound familiar?"

"Senators, you need to give all adults working with youth and all parents the tools to recognize and respond to abuse when it first arises."

SHELDON KENNEDY

"The kids — and often their parents too — looked up to him as a hero."

"This was someone who could make their dreams come true and he used

that trust to hurt them."

Pedophiles count on the fact that most people have trouble believing trusted adults in their fields — coaches, teachers, priests — would ever abuse children, Kennedy added.

James was convicted of some 350 sexual-abuse charges and served three and a half years in prison. He was quietly pardoned in 2007 — touching off a national firestorm.

Last week, James pleaded guilty to fresh allegations of sexual assault. He will be sentenced in February.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sandusky says he'll fight to the end in sex-abuse case

MATT ROURE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky is vowing, in his lawyer's words, to "fight to the death" in his child molestation case.

But Sandusky opted against a preliminary hearing yesterday, sparing his accusers from making their claims in a packed courtroom.

Sandusky's lawyer, Joseph Amendola, said: "There will be no plea



► Sandusky

negotiations."

The credibility of the witnesses would be a key issue. He said he believed some of the young men may have trumped up their claims

and others may come forward in a bid for monetary gain.

Sandusky, 67, is charged with more than 50 counts that accuse him of sexually abusing 10 boys over the span of 12 years.

He has denied the allegations, which led to the departures of long-time Penn State football coach Joe Paterno and the university president.

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Canadian debt up while income down

► Household debt has risen about twice the rate of income: StatsCan

Canadians keep taking on more debt even as they get poorer, a new Statistics Canada report shows.

Average household debt hit a new record high of almost 153 per cent to disposable income in the third quarter, a sizable jump from 150.7 per cent the previous quarter, the agency reported yesterday.

As well, household net worth declined by 2.1 per cent to \$180,100 from \$184,700, the sharpest drop in almost three years as the value of pensions and stock investments declined.




The report came a day after Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney again warned about the dangers of household debt poses to the economy going for-

ward. Canadians are more indebted now than the Americans and British, Carney noted, saying that they need to move to bring debt accumulation in line with income growth.

But analysts cautioned against taking too dark a view over household finances. "It's not black and white," said Benjamin Tal, a senior economist with CIBC World Markets. Most debt accumulation is from mortgages, and unlike the U.S. before the sub-prime fiasco, the segment of home buyers considered "marginal" in Canada is very small.

"I have no problem with people borrowing if they have the ability to pay and have a good job ... and can finance this debt when (in-

Market moment

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Oil	Natural gas
	
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terest) rates rise," he said.

Most other forms of credit, such as balances on credit cards, lines of credit and term loans are slowing down or even falling, Tal added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Time. Out



► A shopper takes a rest with purchases at Northpark Mall in Ridgeland, Miss., on Nov. 25.

VICKIE D. KING/THE CLARION-LEDGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

U.S. retail sales keep rising

Americans spent more on autos, furniture and clothing last month as retail sales rose for the sixth straight month.

McDonald's racks up bill on lobbying

McDonald's Corp. spent \$460,000 lobbying the U.S. government in the third quarter, on issues including immigration, menu labelling and debit card fees.

This represents a 48 per cent increase from the same period a year ago, when it spent \$310,000, according to disclosure reports. It was also up from the second quarter, when it spent \$370,000.

The burger chain lobbied Congress, the White House, the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services on the health-care changes that were signed into law in March 2010.

The new rules will require more companies to offer health-care insurance to employees. McDonald's also homed in on a part in the law that would require more restaurants to add calorie information to their menus. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AREN'T YOU PEOPLE SUPPOSED TO BE STRAPPED FOR CASH?

JUST SAYIN'...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



Here's a Christmas question.

If 40 per cent of Canadians plan to do some or all of their holiday shopping online, up 11 per cent over last year, why am I stalled in this two-block

lineup waiting to turn into the mall?

You'd expect the malls to be decked with 40 per cent fewer shoppers. Not only that, there's a recession on, people. Aren't you supposed to be at home shivering in the dark instead of standing in front of me at the checkout, your arms full of holiday

goodies, while your annoying children cling to you, wheedling for more?

Something doesn't add up here.

Think about it. Walmart is open 24-7. You could shop at 3 a.m. and avoid me and the rush altogether. Of course, for all I know, there could be lineups at 3 a.m. too. I'm not curious enough to find out.

"It's simply not necessary to go out at peak hours, which are defined as those times when I like to do my own Christmas shopping: between 2 and 4 p.m. on weekends, prior to or immediately after my afternoon nap."

Then there's Amazon, eBay, Indigo, Best Buy, etc., where you can buy all your presents on your phone and angels in brown uniforms will deliver them overnight.

And you can pick up gift cards for anything from iTunes to African safaris at the gas station or the drug store.

It's simply not necessary to go out at peak hours, which are defined as those times when I like to do my own Christmas shopping: between 2 and 4 p.m. on weekends, prior to or immediately after my afternoon nap.

Somehow the message isn't getting through. This year, I may have to do my

Christmas shopping on Dec. 28, which is far enough away from Boxing Day, which is just another excuse for people to get in my way.

I'm sure friends and loved ones won't mind. There's usually a big letdown after all the presents are unwrapped, and there's not much to look forward to other than four to six more months of winter. Getting thoughtful gifts on December 28 will be a surprise treat.

Look, it's not all bad. When I got to the mall near my place this past weekend, it was a zoo, as expected, but some marketing genius decided to offer valet parking: eight bucks. Drive up, hand the family SUV over to a professional, and walk directly into the mall. Best eight bucks I ever spent.

And my wife had just enough Christmas spirit left to bake the traditional family dark Christmas cakes. I helped by waiting until she had them all wrapped and stored, and only then snuck into the kitchen and plundered at will.

There are some things you just can't do online.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What is your gift-purchasing strategy?



Local tweets



▶ **@kat_szabs:** Honestly, my mental map of #yeg is pieces

together by "Hey, I think I was lost here once before." #trialanderror

▶ **@GVogelaar:** I feel like I'm getting somewhere! New Anthony Henday west end. #yeg #yegtraffic

▶ **@TripleHeartbeat:** Wow. Every negative person in #yeg is on the bus right now and about 40 dB louder than necessary #Inside-Voice #yegtransit

▶ **@jaxyroller:** Xmas in #yeg with no snow. I think I could really get used to it

▶ **@w_izzard:** Why is it people do not follow the 12 items or less limit when you are at the express checkout!? Read & count is all you have to do! #yeg

▶ **@Kris_NET:** All is quiet in McCauley this afternoon. I'm equal parts pleased and concerned. #eps #yeg

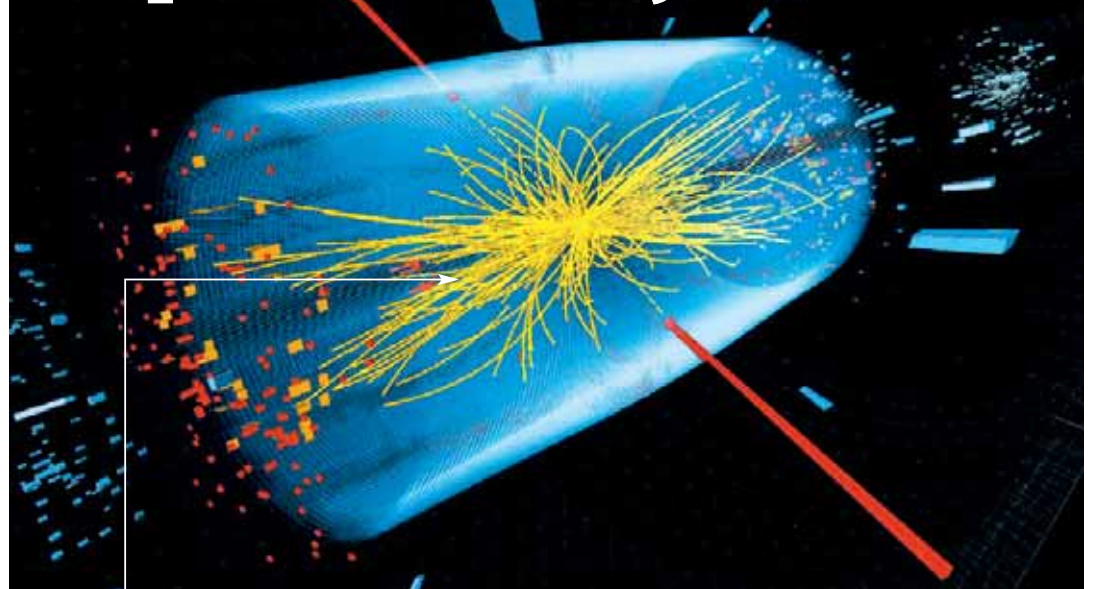
▶ **@thomasancheta:** Dear #yeg where can I find "spreadable" garlic butter. Like the ones from the Italian restos when they give free bread? Lol

▶ **@JC_Clothing:** Still can't get over Ricky Ray being traded in #yeg Not a good day for me as an Eskimo fan that's for sure.

THOMAS MCCAULEY AND LUCAS TAYLOR/CMS/CERN

Daily Zoom

In particle they trust



Hints of God particle found

GENEVA. Science collides with faith in the God particle. After two experiments using the Large Hadron Collider, the world's biggest atom smasher, scientists at CERN physics center say they have glimpses of the Higgs boson subatomic particle, the last missing link in understanding the universe.

● METRO WORLD NEWS



"It would be extremely kind of the Higgs boson to be here. It's too early (to say for sure)."

FABIOLA GIANOTTI,
SCIENTIST AT LHC

How they find new particles

SCIENCE. Scientists at CERN have been firing particles in opposite directions around a 27-kilometre-long underground tunnel, known as the Large Hadron Collider. When particles reach near the speed of light, they crash into each other. The resulting debris is then examined for new particles.

● METRO WORLD NEWS

Higgs boson

- ▶ **Last undiscovered particle.** It's a mysterious particle thought to give all particles mass.
- ▶ **To give all things shape.** This helps particles form atoms, which shapes everything in universe.
- ▶ **Famous nicknames.** The brick that built the universe, Angel of creation.



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2
scene

Charlize Theron: Closet nerd

► While talking about her latest film, *Young Adult*, Theron reveals excruciating details of her awkward youth and says that she doesn't need another Oscar



HEIDI
PATALANO
SCENE@METRONews.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

It would probably be nice for Charlize Theron to get an Oscar for her performance in Jason Reitman's latest film, *Young Adult*.

Most critics seem to think she deserves one. But Theron herself notes: "I can't even think about anything like that ... And plus I have an Oscar," she says, referencing her win for 2003's *Monster*. She catches herself with a laugh. "That was such an asshole thing to say."

Maybe the 36-year-old is just channeling her inner jerk because that's the nature of her character in the film, Mavis Gary, a divorced, young adult author and all-around mess. Gary returns to her hometown to track down her high school boyfriend, now married with a new baby, in the hopes of rekindling their romance. While promoting the film, which was penned by Oscar-winning screenwriter Diablo Cody, Theron revealed some of her own Mavis-like behaviours.

So much of the press for this film discusses what an unsympathetic character Mavis is. How do you see her?

I thought that the things she did were pretty despicable but then again, not to the point where I was disgusted by her. I never had a hard time not liking her.



► Charlize Theron plays Mavis Gary in *Young Adult*.

I would love to go and have a beer with her. I would never let her hang out with my boyfriend. ...

What I liked when I read Diablo's script was the idea of a woman who is dealing with very common mid to late 30s issues that women can really relate to but because of how she went

through life, is dealing with them the way a 16-year-old would deal with them.

She says things like, "don't you know love conquers all?" I mean, it's like the typical 16-year-old would say that and here she is 37, trying to get her life together and she just doesn't have the tools to do it.

With this and *Bridesmaids* we're seeing more of women behaving badly. Do you consider this a step forward?

I talked a lot about this when I did *Monster*. I think people get kind of freaked out when they see real women, conflicted. I think women are almost way more conflicted than men

Glasses girl

► Theron talks about her high school experience: "I wasn't in the popular crowd. I went to an arts school. I was obsessed with ballet. I wore really, really nerdy glasses. I was as blind as could be and boys don't really like big nerdy glasses. I had a massive crush on this guy that this interviewer who just did a story on me for *Vogue* actually found. This guy did not know I existed in school and he was all 'yeah, tell her the crush was mutual.' F— that. It was so not mutual. And then it was like, 'I remember she wore those glasses.'"

and I think we come from a society where we're very comfortable with the Madonna/Whore complex.

We're either really good hookers or really good mothers. But we're not bad hookers and we're not bad mothers and we're nothing in between.

I grew up on cinema where guys got to do that — Gene Hackman and Dustin Hoffman and DeNiro got to play all those characters that I saw a little bit of myself in — those kinds of struggles and the lurking dark things.

I think women are getting a chance to play those kind of honest characters and also, people keep saying, "it's so brave!" It really isn't. It's just refreshing.

Box office



Charlie Sheen is returning to CTV with his new sitcom *Anger Management*. Sheen made the announcement Monday night with an on-air message that aired after his old show *Two and a Half Men*. His new sitcom is loosely based on the 2003 film of the same name. Sheen plays an anger management therapist whose methods wreak havoc on the lives of his patients.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bosnian Serb war victim says Angelina Jolie's film should be banned, says it vilifies Serbs

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Young Adult

► Comedian, author and actor Patton Oswalt

'GOOD TIMES CAN KEEP HAPPENING, JUST NOT THE SAME ONES'

"How f—king amazing was she in this movie?" Patton Oswalt asks when one of Charlize Theron's scenes in *Young Adult* is mentioned. Playing the sidekick to a woman on a mission to seduce her married high school boyfriend, Oswalt went to great lengths to get his character right.

You used an acting coach for the first time with this role. Why did you think this character merited that kind of preparation?

Because the script was so good but there was so much nuance and so much of a delicate tightrope back and forth between despair and humour. The humour never came out of "let's stick a joke here." The humour came out of real human behaviour. I had this mix of exhilaration for being

offered the script and then terror. I didn't want to do wrong by it because it was so well-written.

The film has to do with sentimentality and trying to bring the past into the present. Are you ever tempted to do that?

It's very dangerous. I'm just as guilty of it as anyone else. I think Frank Zappa said, "some day we're all going to die of nostalgia." Nostalgia is also an anagram for lost again. You have to keep moving forward because a big part of life is loss... It's almost like if you want the same good times to keep happening, that's what's dangerous. Good times can keep happening, just not the same ones and if you expect to be the same person having the same good time, then that's also really dangerous.

HEIDI PATALANO

THE CHIPS ARE DEFINITELY NOT DOWN FOR THESE RODENTS

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONews.ca



The Chipmunks have done for small striped squirrels what Rin Tin Tin did for German Shepherds. That is, it made the squeaky-voiced rodents big screen stars.

Alvin, Theodore and Simon have been well-known since they topped the music charts with the *Witch Doctor*'s crazy chorus, Oo-ee, oo-ah-ah, ting-tang, walla-walla, bing-bang in 1958 but their new movies, including this weekend's *The Chipmunks*:

Chipwrecked, have turned them into the tiniest celebrities of the 20th century. The three of them, along with furry actors like Despereaux Tilling, Fievel Mousekewitz and the gang from *Once Upon a Forest* have sold loads of tickets, but none would have made much of an impression if not



► Alvin abandons a game of shuffleboard, to the consternation of Brittany, left, and Simon.

for the pioneering work of the world's most famous rodent, Mickey Mouse.

Created in 1928 by Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks, Mickey is one of the most recognizable movie stars in the world, rodent or otherwise.

He's an Oscar winner

with 175 movies, shorts and video games on his CV; and was the first cartoon character to have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Mickey's fame endures, but why?

"We felt that the public, and especially the children, like animals that are cute and little," said Walt Disney. "When people laugh at Mickey Mouse, it's because he's so human."

Mickey paved the way for generations of rodent actors.

G-Force is a sci-fi-spy film featuring a specially trained squad of guinea pigs who prevent an evil millionaire from taking

over the world.

Who could forget Mr. Gopher, the burrowing terror from *Caddyshack*? (Did you know the movie's gopher "voice" is made up of the same dolphin sound effects used on *Flipper*?)

Or Rizzo the Rat, the streetwise New Jersey puppet from *The Muppets Take Manhattan* and possibly the only kid's character named for Enrico (Ratso) Rizzo, a character in the X-rated *Midnight Cowboy*.

More sinister than Rizzo-despite his X-rated name—is Ben, the story of a boy and his rat.

Best known for its Michael Jackson theme song — it's possibly the only love song to a rat ever released — the movie plays like a Disney movie, if they made a killer rat flick.

In the movie *Danny*, a bullied boy, befriends Ben, the leader of a swarm of telepathic rats.

When the police use flamethrowers to exterminate the rat pack only Ben survives, saved by his human friend.

"I love you Ben," says Danny. "You're the only friend I have."

WALT DISNEY

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Neil's gem of a year

► Legendary singer, Neil Diamond, releases new best hits album on the heels of becoming a Kennedy Center Honouree ► Planning tour for 2012

Neil Diamond has been a hit maker for more than four decades, but the 70-year-old singer-songwriter says that when he's alone in his studio, he sometimes wonders who will hear his music.

The answer, of course, is almost everyone, as evidenced by a stellar year that saw the Sweet Caroline singer inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, become a Kennedy Center Honouree, earn his 13th Grammy nod and release a career-spanning collection of greatest hits.

The Very Best of Neil Diamond, featuring 23 songs, was released last week, just after he returned from the Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, D.C., where he shook hands with President Barack Obama.



► Neil Diamond just released a greatest-hits collection and announced a 2012 North American tour.

dent Barack Obama.

Diamond is planning a North American tour to support the album next year, and he's also planning to marry his love,

Katie O'Neil.

Diamond said 2011 has "definitely been one of the best years ever."

Still soaring from the Kennedy Center celebra-

"It was like a fairy tale, really, because the White House is really done up."

NEIL DIAMOND

tion he spoke about his latest run.

"It was like a fairy tale, really, because the White House is really done up for Christmas and I got the chance to bring my kids with me and three of my older grandkids, who all had the chance to say hello to the President and Mrs. Obama, and they were of course thrilled," Diamond said.

You can his latest album at most retailers and neildiamond.com.

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Mitsubishi releases the 2012 Lancer SE AWC



Mitsubishi is (to date) the oldest car company in Japan and continues to grow at a greater rate than any other single auto company in Canada.

Mitsubishi has taken experience garnered from numerous rally wins, and their overall experience producing vehicles that use technology normally reserved for SUVs and applied it to the new Mitsubishi 2012 Lancer line. The result is a compact Lancer Sedan with rally-proven road handling and traction that has led Mitsubishi to win international championships, including off-road performance marked and proven by it's run of 12 wins in the ParisDakar Rally, in addition to numerous successes in the FIA World Rally Championship and Intercontinental Rally Championship. These achievements are something no other company of it's type has managed to equal.

MITSUBISHI LANCER SE AWC

Type: AWD 4-door compact sedan

Engine: 2.4-litre I4

Horsepower: 168 @ 6,000 rpm


Torque: 167 lb-ft @ 4,250 rpm

Fuel economy: City - 9.1 L/100 km; Highway - 6.8 L/100 km

The Mitsubishi AWC system has a front centre active differential that directs power to the inside or outside front wheels depending on where the traction is required. You can select 2WD, 4WD or Locked, where the power is split equally front to

rear, via a toggle switch on the console.

Features include power door locks, windows (with one-touch up/down) and outside mirrors plus remote keyless entry, engine immobilizer, heated seats and theft-deterrent system. It also is covered by Mitsubishi's 10 year, 160,000 km powertrain limited warranty.

Safety has not been neglected in the Mitsubishi Lancer design. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has given the Lancer a Five Star rating out of five for frontal, offset impacts. It is one of the few compact sedans to offer six airbags and a front knee bolster for the driver. Both front seats have active head restraints and there are head restraints for all three rear seat passengers. The LATCH system (lower anchors and tethers for child seats) also comes standard. 



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2012 Mitsubishi Outlander 4-Door SUV



The four-door Mitsubishi Outlander has the look of a sports car, but several amenities of a sedan. While the vehicle is not the best in class, a constant improvement in design and handling makes for a substantial automobile.

Sportronic paddle shifting allows the driver a better feel for the vehicle's power, allowing for more active driver participation. An aluminum roof panel, 18-inch alloy wheels, and xenon hidden headlamps add to the sports flavoring.


Automatic climate control, air conditioning with micron filter, and steering-wheel-mounted cruise control make you feel like a luxury sedan is at your beck and call. The Outlander's leather-wrapped shift knob and steering wheel also add to the luxury vehicle image.

In addition to the already attractive overall package offered by Mitsubishi in their vehicle lineup, any new Mitsubishi product purchased before December 31/11 will include a free pre-paid Mastercard worth \$1,000!

A 60/40-split/fold/tumble-rear seat allows additional space for passengers or packages. Or maybe both! While the rear seat sliding/reclining feature allows backseat passengers some of the comforts that are

usually only experienced by those riding in the front seat, the backseat area is still too small and not very comfortable.

Outside chrome accents, rear LED taillights, fog lamps, and heated side mirrors complement the outside as the aforementioned items do the comfortable front-seat area.

Navigation, auxiliary video input jack, and rear camera come as optional items and can cost as much as \$2,000. There is also an optional touring package that has a power glass sunroof, punch premium sound system with nine speakers including 10-inch subwoofer, Sirius Satellite Radio, heated front seats, and power driver's seat which can add another \$2,000. 



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OUTLANDER XL model shown

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Bullock suffers from first world problems

► To spoil kids or not? ► Actress struggles with hard questions at Christmas

Sandra Bullock is torn over what sort of Christmas to give her 2-year-old son, Louis.

"The less you give, the less they'll expect. And that way, if I give him nothing, he won't remember and he won't expect it next year and it's cheaper," Bullock tells Access Hollywood of the more frugal option. On the other hand, "I want the photo ops to be really great because he's not going to remember it, but he'll remember it by the photos and when he's 16 and says, 'I hate you — you're a horrible mother,'" she jokes. "I'll go, 'Do you see this Christmas? Do you see that I got you that life-size lion? Shut up! Get in your room and do your homework. I was a good mother then.'" ● METRO



► Sandra Bullock

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Talking points



Winslet leaves wounds of the heart, ex says

SUCK IT UP NANCY. To hear ex-boyfriend Louis Dowler tell it, Kate Winslet is a real heartbreaker.

"I don't think Kate behaved well and it is still very raw for me," Dowler tells the Daily Mail.

The pair dated after Winslet's divorce from director Sam Mendes, though she's since moved on to dating Ned Rocknroll, Richard Branson's nephew.

"I was in love with her and you can't switch that off overnight. I'm not sure Kate treated me well," admits Dowler.

"She met my parents and family. I thought we were inseparable. I certainly haven't found anyone else since."

● METRO

Ryan Reynolds getting Lively

BLAKE LIGHTING HIS LANTERN Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds were reportedly "very cuddly" during a midmorning double

Celebrity tweets



"I think people gossip because their own lives are un-gossip worthy...Live a gossip worthy life...")

@kirstiealley



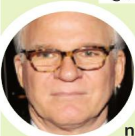
@katyperry

"Made the switch to iPhone ...now just waiting to grow thumbs..."

@HankAzaria

"In my hometown there was a fondue place that later became a crepe place. Then it became a french toast palace. The first 2 facts are

@SteveMartinToGo



"NEWS: Discovery of a black hole the size of nearly 10 billion Suns. Oh, please. Yawn. I'm nominated for a Grammy."

date in NYC recently with Lively's older sister and brother-in-law, according to Us Weekly.

The Green Lantern co-stars and happy couple were "poking each other, giggling, and even seen leaning on each other in the booth," a source says.

The brunch wasn't without incident, though, as Lively "hit her head on a lamp as (she sat down in the booth) and put a napkin jokingly on her head."

● METRO

Drew worried for LiLo

While Lindsay Lohan has chosen an interesting avenue for a career comeback — posing nude for Playboy, Celebrity Rehab host Dr. Drew Pinsky tells Hollyscoop that it's not exactly the course he would prescribe.

"I mean, it's not a surprise Lindsay is trying to make a living," Dr. Drew

says. "I wish her the best, but she's not going in a great direction."

Lohan's Playboy shoot leaked online earlier this week and has been getting good reviews — not good enough to spur people to buy the magazine — but Lindsay is banking on the spread to help return her to fame. ● METRO



► Lindsay Lohan



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Travel in brief



A "snow village" to be set up in Montreal's Jean Drapeau Park — complete with hotel, restaurant, bar, conference centre and chapel, all made out of ice and snow — will be a North American first, organizers say. The \$2.1-million project — mostly funded by a group of Quebec entrepreneurs and Tourism Quebec — is scheduled to open Jan. 6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Chabad sponsors public menorah lightings in more than 70 countries for Hanukkah

Channeling New York Chutzpah

► New York City has the highest concentration of Jews outside of Israel ► Nosh on kosher food, watch the lighting of a massive menorah and visit some historic sites ► Mazel Tov!

Ellis Island

An obvious place to start is Ellis Island, where the ancestors of so many American Jews first set foot on U.S. soil. Boats run from Battery Park — schedules at statuecruises.com — to the National Park site in New York Harbor. The Ellis Island museum offers a wealth of artifacts connected to Jewish immigrants, including a photo of a kosher kitchen that opened on the island in 1911 and an eye chart with a line of Hebrew letters.



► Ellis Island

MARTY LEDERHANDLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

BETH HARPAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Kutsher's

Kutsher's

Kutsher's Tribeca, which opened in November at 186 Franklin St., is the brainchild of Zach Kutsher, whose grandparents ran Kutsher's Country Club, a popular Catskills resort in its mid-20th century heyday. The menu reinvents and updates favourite Jewish comfort foods, offering savoury brisket meatballs,

chopped liver made from duck, and yummy matzo ball soup with dill. You can even order caviar with your latkes — though the roe is not from sturgeon, which isn't kosher. On Dec. 25, Kutsher's will offer a special Chinese-themed menu in honour of the American Jewish tradition of going out for Chinese food on Christmas Day.

Light the menorah

During Hanukkah, the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish outreach organization sponsors the lighting of a massive menorah, about 10 metres tall, on Fifth Avenue and 59th Street near Central Park, between Dec. 20-27. Candles are lit at 5:30 p.m., except for the Sabbath, with a 3:30 p.m. lighting on Dec. 23 and an 8:30 p.m. lighting on Dec. 24.



► Menorah on Fifth Avenue and 59th Street

LUBAVITCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to Synagogue

Heading north, where Chinatown runs into the Lower East Side, you'll find the Eldridge Street Synagogue, 12 Eldridge St., eldridgestreet.org. It was founded in 1887 as the first great house of worship built by Eastern European Jews in the U.S. In 2007, after a 20-year, \$18 million restoration, a museum opened on site

about the synagogue and local Jewish history.

Other worthwhile stops include the Bialystoker Synagogue, organized in 1865 and housed in an 1826 fieldstone Federal style building at 7-11 Willett St.; and the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy, which offers walking tours on New York Jewish history and operates a storefront visitor centre at 400 Grand St.

Museum of Jewish Heritage

The Museum of Jewish Heritage is in Battery Park City. Through summer 2012, the museum is hosting a fascinating exhibit about Emma Lazarus. Lazarus' sonnet The New Colossus with its famous line "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses," is engraved on a tablet in the Statue of Liberty's pedestal, and Lady Liberty can be seen from the museum windows. Lazarus was born in New York to an old Sephardic Jewish family; a letter about religious



► Hanukkah lamp from the 1920s at the museum.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

freedom from her great-uncle to George Washington is part of the show. The Museum of Jewish Heritage was created as a memorial to those who perished in the Holocaust.

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum at 97 Orchard St., tenement.org, is housed in a building that dates to 1863, but it was a time capsule when the museum acquired it in 1996: Its apartments had been sealed off since 1935. Tours now tell the stories of the people who lived there. The building housed immigrants from various backgrounds, but some tours focus on Jewish families.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► One of the apartments at the museum.

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► The Ten Commandments displayed over the altar at the Eldridge Street Synagogue.

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keep it simple — and impress

► This meat dish, which looks fancy but doesn't require much work, is ideal for entertaining

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



Simple and tasty are key to helping you entertain this season and beef is the perfect choice!

Ask your butcher for a tri-tip roast for this recipe as the texture of meat is tender and juicy.

You can also use your favourite beef roasts such as a strip loin, rib or sirloin tip roast.

Serve it up with mashed potatoes or creamy polenta.

Preparation:

1 In small bowl, stir together oil, pesto,

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp (30 mL) each extra virgin olive oil, sundried tomato pesto, aged balsamic vinegar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) soy sauce

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) roasted garlic and peppers spice mix
- 1 tsp (5 mL) herbes de provence
- 1 bottom sirloin tri-tip oven roast about 2 lb/1 kg

vinegar, soy sauce, spice mix and herbes de provence until combined. Spread all over roast and place on rack in roasting pan.

2 Oven sear the roast by placing it in a preheated 450 F (230 C) oven for 10 minutes.

3 Reduce heat to 275 F (140 C) and cook for about 1 hour and 45 minutes or until meat thermometer registers 145 F (63 C) for medium rare or to desired doneness.

4 Remove from oven, cover loosely with foil and let rest for about 15 minutes. Slice thinly to serve. **EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA**

Holiday prep

► We're here to help
Next Wednesday is the final edition of Emily Richards' Holiday Helper. Check out metronews.ca/food for past editions.



► This recipe serves eight.

Drink of the week

Isle of Mull

Scotch is the perfect winter drink, whether it's après-ski or after-dinner. Sadly, the liquor was mostly forgotten by the cocktail revolution. For something more contemporary than a Rusty Nail, try this drink.

- 1.25 oz blended Scotch whisky
- .5 oz Bénédictine
- .25 oz Stone's Green Ginger Wine
- dash of Fee's Plum Bitters
- dash of cherry juice

Build in a rocks glass, and garnish with sour cherries soaked in whisky. **JOE HOWELL, TORONTO BARTENDER**



For all the nibblers

► Tender pancakes, topped with lemon cream cheese and smoked salmon, are great with sparkling wine



► This recipe makes 32 blinis.

Preparation:

1 In a bowl, dissolve yeast in water and stir in 1 ¼ cups (300 mL) of buttermilk. Let stand 10 mins or until begins to froth.

2 In another bowl, combine all purpose and buckwheat flours and salt. Sift flour mix into

buttermilk mix and stir until combined. Stir in remaining buttermilk.

3 Whisk egg yolks into batter. Cover and set aside in warm place to rise for about 1 hour or until batter is bubbly.

4 Beat egg whites until stiff peaks; fold into batter. Cover and let rise 1 hr.

5 Brush nonstick skillet with melted butter; heat over a medium high heat. Spoon 1 tbsp (15 mL) of batter for each blini and cook 1 min., until bubbles break through. Turn blini over; brown 30 more seconds. Remove from pan and overlap on a plate; repeat with remaining batter.

6 In bowl, combine cream cheese, lemon rind and juice. Spread some cream cheese mix onto each blini. Roll sliced salmon around finger to create a rosette and place on each blini. **EMILY RICHARDS**

Ingredients:

- 2 tsp (10 mL) traditional active dry yeast
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) lukewarm water
- 1 ¾ cup (425 mL)

- lukewarm buttermilk
- 1 cup (250 mL) each all purpose & buckwheat flour
- 1 tsp (5 mL) salt
- 2 eggs, separated
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) butter, melted

- ½ cup (125 mL) cream cheese
- 1 ½ tsp (7 mL) grated lemon rind
- 1 tsp (5 mL) lemon juice
- 1 lb (500 g) thinly sliced smoked salmon



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Talk the talk, reap the benefits

► Honesty and a genuine attempt at listening to co-workers can lead to greater things than just a happy office

MONICA WEYMOUTH
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

It's a common workplace complaint in almost any industry: "There's no communication around here."

But as much as it might be lamented in the cubicles, managers are frequently baffled by the gripe, says Dianna Booher, a productivity and communications consultant and author of more than 40 books, including the newly revised *Communicate with Confidence!*

"It's a recurring issue. When I talk to CEOs, they're always puzzled. They say, 'How can people say that? We give out information all the time,'" says Booher.

"I can sum it up for them in four words: Information is not communication."

That said, don't be that guy whining about the



► Take a look at your team. If you notice that someone in the back isn't being heard, encourage them to speak their mind.

lack of communication. Nobody likes that guy. Instead, be proactive and raise the bar with these tips.

"People talk about voter apathy all the time, but a lot of times you see it in the workplace," says Booher. "But you can change things."

Tell the truth — the whole

truth

It's not enough to tell your co-workers that you'll hit the deadline. You also need to mention that in order to do so, you had to alter the project and rely on your strung-out intern to do sensitive research. "It's got to be the truth, but it also has to be the entire, current truth," says Booher. "If

you withhold bad news, people go to other sources."

Make sure you have discussions

Evaluate your conversations with your co-workers: Is there a back-and-forth and some healthy debate on occasion?

"I can sum it up for them in four words: Information is not communication."

AUTHOR DIANNA BOOHER'S

ADVICE TO CONFUSED CEOs

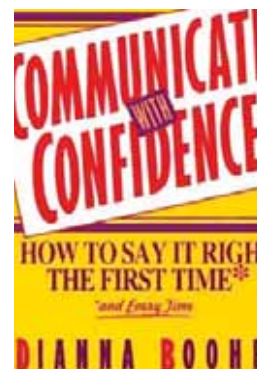
It's a good sign if people don't care what you say, they have to know that you care about them when you say it — but it's true," says Booher. "If your staff thinks you only care about the numbers, then they'll tune you out."

Good communication is more than just a nice idea to throw around at company retreats.

Care, or at least get good at pretending you do

"It's a cliché that people don't care what you say, they have to know that you care about them when you say it — but it's true," says Booher. "If your staff thinks you only care about the numbers, then they'll tune you out."

Why it's worth it



Good communication is more than just a nice idea to throw around at company retreats.

"Companies are far more profitable when there's good communication," says Booher. "Employees are more productive and there's less turnover. Most of the time, people don't leave companies because they don't like the work — they leave because they don't like the culture."

ULTIMATUM TANTAMOUNT TO DISMISSAL

► Case demonstrates again that resignations put forth under pressure are likely to be considered dismissals

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@CANADA
EMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
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Following a bad day at work and thinking that he would be fired, Philip Chan elected to resign instead. However, in another tale from the workplace trenches with an ending you would not expect, a court found that Chan's resignation was actually a termination.

Chan, the general manager of a busy Denny's restaurant in Lang-

ley, B.C., had his fair share of problems with his supervisor, who had repeatedly criticized his performance.

Although Chan had been well-regarded within the company, by May 2009 the tone and content of the communication from his boss led him to believe that he would soon be fired. Matters came to a head when Chan was given the choice of being dismissed or resigning.

For Chan, "saving face" was paramount, so he resigned rather than face dismissal. However, at the urging of another senior employee, Chan soon returned to his job. His content with his boss would not last long.

After another hectic day at the restaurant, Chan's manager came to



► Feeling a little boxed in by your options? If your employer offers you no other choice but to resign or get fired you may have cause to contest their behaviour after the fact.

him once more and said that he could choose to resign or else he would be fired. Again, faced with the possibility of explaining his termination to prospective employers, Chan opted to resign. He

drafted a letter confirming his decision and left work. This time, however, although Chan's departure was permanent, he was not about to go quietly. Chan recently sued Denny's, arguing that the

ultimatum he was given was tantamount to a dismissal.

At a recent trial, the judge drew a clear bright line between an employee who voluntarily leaves and one who is told he

will otherwise be fired.

Here, although Chan's statements and actions were consistent with an employee who wanted out, they were provided in the context of an ultimatum that he would be fired and in response to a boss who had tried to force his resignation once before. Chan was awarded wrongful dismissal damages and his legal costs.

Although the results of this case may have been surprising, the law in this area is quite clear: Canadian courts are loath to uphold a resignation proffered under circumstances of pressure or an ultimatum and instead will usually find that the employee has been fired. **DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.**

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4 sports

Quoted



"I am deeply honoured to win this very special and very historic award. ... To be recognized with this award for something I love to do, which is figure skate, means so much."

CANADIAN FIGURE SKATER PATRICK CHAN, AFTER WINNING THE 2011 LOU MARSH AWARD YESTERDAY. THE 20-YEAR-OLD FROM TORONTO WON THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST SPRING IN MOSCOW, SETTING THREE WORLD SCORING RECORDS, AND WON THE GRAND PRIX FINAL LAST WEEKEND IN QUEBEC CITY TO CAP AN UNDEFEATED SEASON. THE HONOUR — DECIDED BY A PANEL OF NATIONAL SPORTS EDITORS, REPORTERS AND BROADCASTERS — IS GIVEN ANNUALLY TO CANADA'S OUTSTANDING ATHLETE BY THE TORONTO STAR.

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RYAN KENNEDY

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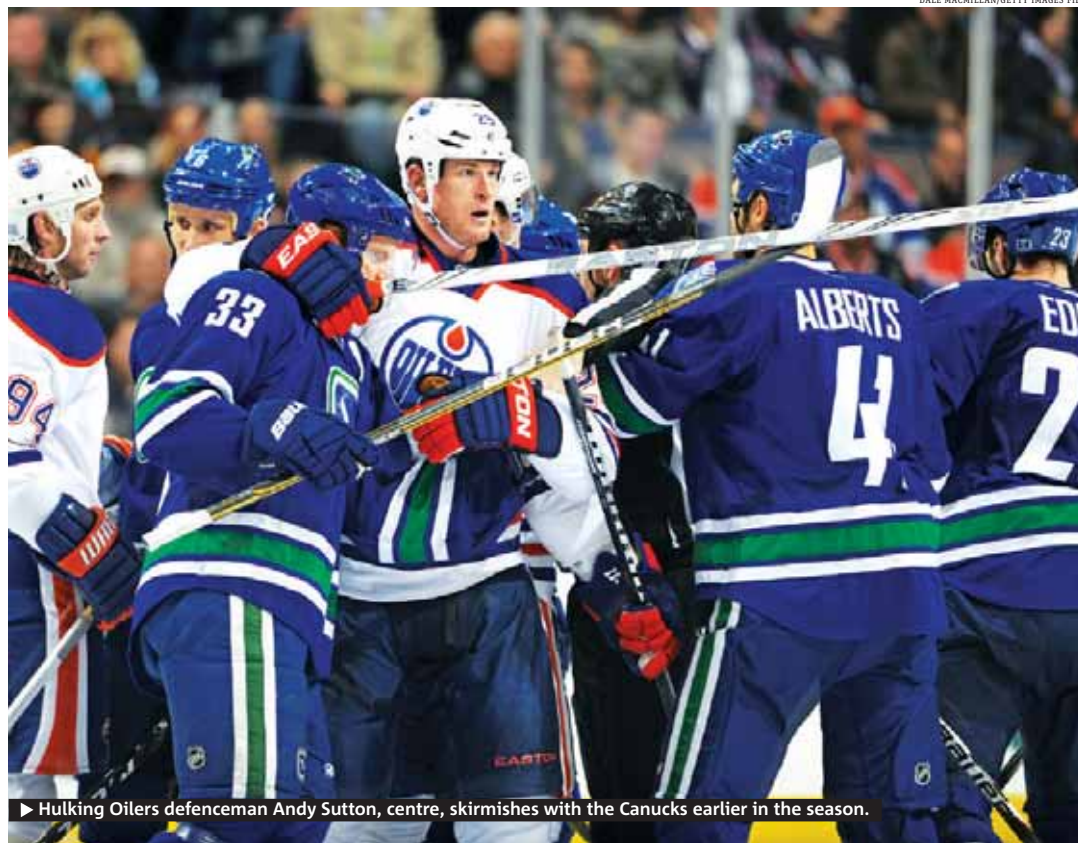
Thanks to the Internet, Oilers defenceman Andy Sutton will always be associated

with a cringe-worthy showdown with a reporter in a playoff scrum, where the big blue-liner sarcastically asks the scribe if he's an expert on high elbows.

Sutton, then with Ottawa, was defending himself from a line of inquiry he felt was already biased against him. Fast forward to this week and the six-foot-six, 245-pounder once again feels like a victim. This time it's because he had little recourse in appealing his eight-game suspension for a leaping check on Carolina's Alexei Ponikarovsky that, not surprisingly, was a head shot.

Sutton is a repeat offender in the NHL's eyes and while he could have appealed to commissioner Gary Bettman, the Edmonton defender didn't see much hope in talking to the boss of Brendan Shanahan, the man who suspended him in the first place.

Sutton makes an interesting point about the NHL's justice system: An independent committee or arbiter would seem to make more sense than simply going up the league ladder, and maybe that will



► Hulking Oilers defenceman Andy Sutton, centre, skirmishes with the Canucks earlier in the season.

become a discussion point in the collective bargaining agreement that must be hammered out soon.

But Sutton's probably not in the best position to make such statements right now.

With his previously mentioned size and strength, the veteran has filled a valuable role on the Oilers' blue-line, one that doesn't boast the marquee names of the forward corps. But Sutton is of no

"After all, why does a man who stands six foot six need to leave his skates in the first place? Even Zdeno Chara can be rubbed out when you're Sutton's size."

value in the press box and he needs to be smarter about his physical play.

After all, why does a man who stands six foot six need to leave his skates in the first place? Even Zdeno Chara can be rubbed out when you're Sutton's size.

As an intimidator, Sutton's a great one. And he'd likely be the first to tell you hellfire would rain down on anyone who dared such a manoeuvre on Jordan Eberle or Ryan Nugent-Hopkins if he was patrolling the ice.

Sutton's beef on the

back end would have been useful with the skidding Oilers embarking on a tough stretch of schedule. By the time he returns, Edmonton might be in a very different place in the standings.

While I'm not suggesting he tone down his bruising, it only makes sense for his skates to stay on the ice and his elbows to remain down in the future. And I know he can do it — he's an expert.

Flyers' Giroux latest star felled by concussion



► Claude Giroux

Philadelphia Flyers star Claude Giroux is out indefinitely with a concussion.

Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said yesterday that Giroux's symptoms have become worse since he suffered a head injury against Tampa Bay last week.

"He skated a little bit today; didn't feel that good. Just didn't feel like himself," Holmgren said last night in Washington before the Flyers faced the Capi-

39

Claude Giroux leads the NHL with 39 points and has led the Flyers to the top of the Eastern Conference standings.

tals. "I don't know that there's any good news in this other than after 15 minutes or so, once he stopped skating, he did

start to feel a little better."

The immediate treatment will be rest.

"We're just going to take it easy with Claude," Holmgren said. "We'll probably just give him some time off (today) and revisit again (tomorrow). Obviously we're concerned. Claude is one of our better players and obviously is off to a great start this season. We're going to err on the side of caution."

Giroux took an inadvertent knee to the head by

teammate Wayne Simmonds near the end of the second period on Saturday.

The Flyers said on Monday that Giroux had been feeling better. But another examination yesterday found Giroux has a concussion.

Giroux leads the Flyers with 16 goals and 23 assists. His 39 points were three ahead of Toronto's Phil Kessel for the NHL lead heading into last night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	29	19	7	2	1	106	82	41	8-4-1-1	11-3-1-0	8-2-0-0	W6
d-Boston	29	19	9	0	1	97	59	39	11-6-0-1	8-3-0-0	7-2-0-1	W2
d-Florida	31	16	9	2	4	84	80	38	6-2-1-4	10-7-1-0	4-3-2-1	L3
NY Rangers	27	17	6	1	3	83	60	38	8-2-0-2	9-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	31	17	10	2	2	95	79	38	8-3-2-0	9-7-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
Toronto	30	16	11	2	1	93	95	35	7-4-2-1	9-7-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
New Jersey	30	16	13	0	1	79	86	33	6-5-0-1	10-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
Buffalo	30	15	12	2	1	81	82	33	7-9-2-1	8-3-0-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Montreal	31	13	11	2	5	79	80	33	5-5-2-4	8-6-0-1	4-2-1-3	W2
Winnipeg	30	14	12	3	1	84	93	32	10-4-0-0	4-8-3-1	6-3-1-0	W1
Ottawa	31	14	13	2	2	94	107	32	7-6-0-1	7-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Washington	29	15	13	0	1	89	94	31	10-5-0-1	5-8-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	32	12	16	0	2	79	101	26	7-5-0-0	5-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	L2
NY Islanders	28	9	13	4	2	65	93	24	6-7-3-0	3-6-1-2	4-3-2-1	L3
Carolina	32	9	18	3	2	80	110	23	5-9-0-2	4-9-3-0	1-7-1-1	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	31	13	11	2	5	79	80	33	5-5-2-4	8-6-0-1	4-2-1-3	W2
d-Chicago	30	18	8	1	3	99	92	40	9-2-0-3	9-6-1-0	6-3-0-1	W2
d-Dallas	29	17	11	0	1	74	78	35	9-4-0-1	8-7-0-0	6-3-0-1	W2
Detroit	29	19	9	1	0	93	63	39	12-2-1-0	7-7-0-0	8-2-0-0	W3
Vancouver	30	18	10	0	2	98	73	38	8-4-0-1	10-6-0-1	8-1-0-1	L1
St. Louis	29	17	9	0	3	71	62	37	11-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	7-2-0-1	W3
Nashville	30	15	11	3	1	79	80	34	6-5-2-1	9-6-1-0	5-5-0-0	W3
San Jose	28	15	10	2	1	78	68	33	8-6-1-0	7-4-1-1	3-5-1-1	L3
Phoenix	29	15	11	1	2	77	76	33	6-6-1-1	9-5-0-1	5-5-0-0	L2
Edmonton	30	14	13	0	3	83	80	31	9-5-0-2	5-8-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Calgary	30	14	14	1	1	74	82	30	8-5-1-1	6-9-0-0	6-3-0-1	L1
Los Angeles	30	13	13	2	2	65	70	30	8-9-0-1	5-4-2-1	3-6-1-0	L5
Colorado	31	14	16	1	0	82	94	29	8-9-0-0	6-7-1-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Columbus	30	9	17	1	3	73	100	22	6-8-1-1	3-9-0-2	4-4-1-1	W1
Anaheim	29	8	16	2	3	67	95	21	6-9-1-0	2-7-1-3	2-7-1-0	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results

Toronto 2 Carolina 1 (OT)
Ottawa 3 Buffalo 2 (OT)
Columbus 2 Vancouver 1 (SO)
Nashville 2 Calgary 1
Winnipeg 2 Minnesota 1
Dallas 1 N.Y. Rangers 0
Philadelphia 5 Washington 1
Boston 3 Los Angeles 0
Detroit 4 Pittsburgh 1
Montreal 5 N.Y. Islanders 3
New Jersey 3 Florida 2 (SO)
Colorado 4 San Jose 3 (SO)

Monday's result

New Jersey 5 Tampa Bay 4

Tonight's games

All times Eastern
Boston at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Tomorrow's games

Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Washington at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's games

Dallas at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

BLUE JACKETS 2, CANUCKS 1 (SO)

First Period

1. Columbus, Carter 6 (Wisniewski, Letestu) 10:32 (pp)

Penalties — H.Sedin Vcr (cross-checking), Tyutin Clb (tripping) 8:30, Kesler Vcr (cross-checking) 9:53, Weisse Vcr (hooking) 14:52, Byers Clb (high-sticking) 17:13.

Second Period — No Scoring.

Penalties — Brassard Clb (tripping) 1:38, Johansen Clb (tripping) 7:33, Burrows Vcr (goal-tender interference) 16:00.

Third Period

2. Vancouver, Lapierre 5 (Higgins) 8:03

Penalty — Nash Clb (high-sticking) 13:37.

Overtime — No Scoring.

Penalties — None.

Shootout — Columbus wins 3-1

Vancouver (1) — Hodgson, miss; Burrows, goal.

Columbus (3) — Letestu, goal; Nash, goal; Wisniewski, goal.

Shots on goal

Vancouver 5 14 11 2 —32

Columbus 10 11 6 3 —30

Goal (shots-saves) — Vancouver: Luongo (L,11-6-2); Columbus: Mason (W,4-12-1)(31-30), Sanford (13:14 third)(1-1).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Vancouver: 0-4; Columbus: 1-3.

Referees — Mike Hasenfratz, Francois St. Laurent. **Linesmen** — Darren Gibbs, Anthony Sericolo.

Att. — 15,808 (18,144) at Columbus, Ohio.

LEAFS 2, HURRICANES 1 (OT)

First Period — No Scoring.

Penalties — Franson Tor (delay of game) 0:27, Ruutu Car (tripping) 13:29.

Second Period — No Scoring.

Penalty — Phaneuf Tor (interference) 12:02.

Third Period

1. Toronto, Connolly 5 (MacArthur, Armstrong) 15:46

2. Carolina, Ponikarovsky 7 (Staal, Jokinen) 18:06 (pp)

Penalties — Faulk Car (hooking) 1:49, Allen Car (kneeing) 10:05, Lupul Tor (high-sticking) 16:23.

Overtime

3. Toronto, Connolly 6 (Lupul, Franson) 0:44

Penalties — None.

Shots on goal

Carolina 5 7 6 0 —18

Toronto 13 13 9 3 —38

Goal — Carolina: Ward (L,9-13-4); Toronto: Reimer (W,5-2-2).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Carolina: 1-3; Toronto: 0-3.

Attendance — 19,509 (18,819) at Toronto.

SENATORS 3, SABRES 2 (OT)

First Period

1. Ottawa, Michalek 19 (Spezza, Greening) 1:09

2. Buffalo, Szczecura 1 (Pominville) 14:16

3. Buffalo, Ennis 2 (Stafford, Roy) 15:44

Penalties — Konopka Ott, McCormick Buf (fighting) 1:41, Anderson Ott (tripping; served by N) 4:50.

Second Period — No Scoring.

Penalties — Greening Ott (high-sticking) 7:22, Vanek Buf (hooking) 12:14, Buffalo bench (too many men; served by Ennis) 16:06, Stafford Buf (high-sticking) 19:54.

Third Period

4. Ottawa, Regan 2 (Lee) 7:27

Penalties — Cowen Ott (hooking) 13:11, Roy Buf (boarding) 14:08, Greening Ott, Ehrhoff Buf (fighting) 20:00.

Overtime

5. Ottawa, Cowen 3 (Karlsson, Spezza) 0:45

Penalties — None.

Shots on goal

Ottawa 13 16 13 2 —44

Buffalo 12 11 6 0 —29

Goal — Ottawa: Anderson (W,13-10-2); Buffalo: Miller (L,7-6-2).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Ottawa: 0-4; Buffalo: 0-3.

Attendance — 18,690 (18,690) at Buffalo, N.Y.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Kessel, Tor	18	18	36
Lupul, Tor	13	21	34
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	22	34
Stamkos, TB	18	15	33
Versteeg, Fla	15	18	33
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	25	33
Toews, Chi	17	15	32
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	19	32
Pominville, Buf	10	22	32
Sharp, Chi	16	15	31
Ma.Hossa, Chi	12	19	31
Backstrom, Wash	11	20	31
Eberle, Edm	11	20	31
Weiss, Fla	11	20	31
P.Kane, Chi	8	23	31
Fleischmann, Fla	12	18	30
Datsyuk, Det	9	21	30
Spezza, Ott	9	21	30
Neal, Pgh	17	12	29
Franzen, Det	14	15	29
Vanek, Buf	14	15	29
Malkin, Pgh	11	18	29

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

WEST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

WEST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	246	259
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154	153	326

x-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched division

Monday's result

Seattle 30 St. Louis 13

Tomorrow's game

All times Eastern

Jacksonville at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.

Saturday's game

Dallas at Tampa Bay, 8:20 p.m.

Sunday's games

New Orleans at Minnesota, 1 p.m.

Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.

Cincinnati at St. Louis, 1 p.m.

Carolina at Houston, 1 p.m.

Green Bay at Kansas City, 1 p.m.

Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.

Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.

Detroit at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.

New England at Denver, 4:15 p.m.

Cleveland at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.

N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia, 4:15 p.m.

Baltimore at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 19

Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 8:30 p.m.

LATE MONDAY

SEAHAWKS 30, RAMS 13

St. Louis 0 3 3 7 —13
Seattle 10 0 10 10 —30

First Quarter

Sea—Robinson 17 blocked punt return (Hauschka kick), 9:57.

Sea—FG Hauschka 42, 1:35.

Second Quarter

StL—FG Jo.Brown 46, 11:04.

Third Quarter

Sea—FG Hauschka 23, 12:03.

StL—FG Jo.Brown 29, 1:49.

Sea—Baldwin 29 pass from Jackson (Hauschka kick), :06.



RAM

Gazing into the near future

- ▶ Audi prepares to enter the hybrid fray in Canada next year with its Q5 Hybrid
- ▶ As writer Jil McIntosh tells us, it's definitely fun to drive, especially in 'Sport' mode

JIL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

When they were introduced, gasoline-electric hybrids were small, basic cars. As the technology matured, so did the vehicles, and today, most premium brands include hybrids in their lineup — as Audi will, when the hybrid version of its Q5 compact SUV goes on sale next summer.

Although they pay more for their vehicles initially, premium-vehicle owners still don't want to spend a lot at the pumps, and they appreciate the fuel savings a hybrid can provide.

That said, while exact pricing is yet to come, the Q5 Hybrid will cost around \$55,000, about \$10,000 more than the non-hybrid Q5 upon which it's based.

There has to be more than just fuel economy, and in this case, it's performance.

The Q5 Hybrid uses the turbocharged, direct-injection 2.0-litre four-cylinder from the regular Q5, with an eight-speed automatic transmission and the company's "Quattro" all-wheel-drive.

An electric motor is sandwiched between the engine and transmission, fed by a 72-cell lithium-ion battery pack mounted under the cargo floor.

The engine produces



▶ The 2013 Audi Q5 Hybrid will be available in Canada next summer.

211 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque, but when you mash the throttle, the electric motor can add a brief boost to 245 horsepower and 354 lb-ft of torque.

Since electric motors make their peak power right from the start — unlike gasoline engines, which have to rev up — the power surge is immediate.

This hybrid is great fun to drive.

It's a "full" hybrid (but you don't plug it into the wall), capable of starting and running solely on its battery at 60 km/h for up to three kilometres.

If you're already cruising, it can switch over to electricity at speeds of up to 100 km/h. Come to a

2013 Audi Q5



▶ **Engine:** Turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder with hybrid system.

▶ **Power:** 211 hp/258 torque (gasoline engine); 245 hp/354 torque (maximum hybrid combined).

▶ **Fuel consumption:** TBA

▶ **On sale:** Summer 2012

stop and the gasoline engine shuts off, although all the electronics continue to function, including the electrically-operated air conditioning.

An animated display in the dash shows what type of power is being used.

The switch from gas to electric happens automatically, although if all the

driving conditions are appropriate, you can hit a button to keep it in electric-only mode.

The Q5 is one of my favourites to drive, and when I piloted an early production version on an event in Spain, I discovered that the Hybrid is just more of the same. It's intelligently sized, it wraps

around corners almost like a sports car, and it's light and agile even though the hybrid system adds 130 kilograms.

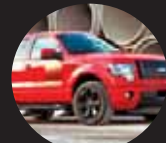
The electric steering is tuned to feel hydraulic, with excellent weight and feedback.

If you don't mind using a bit more gas, you can put the Q5 into "Sport" mode, which makes it feel even sharper on the curves.

The price will be a major factor, and the Q5 Hybrid will probably remain a relatively rare model on Canadian roads, but it's meant to pave the way for yet another innovation: the all-electric Audi E-Tron sports car, which will make the leap from concept to production next year.

5 drive

Award Winner



Ford F-150 nabs Motor Trend honour

The Ford F-150 was named 2012 Truck of the Year by Motor Trend this week. The magazine felt the F-150 best met the award's six key criteria: engineering excellence, advancement in design, efficiency, safety, value, and performance of intended function. "The bottom line is that the F-150 simply excels at being ... a truck. It mastered every task we subjected it to," said Edward Loh, Motor Trend's editor-in-chief. **METRO**

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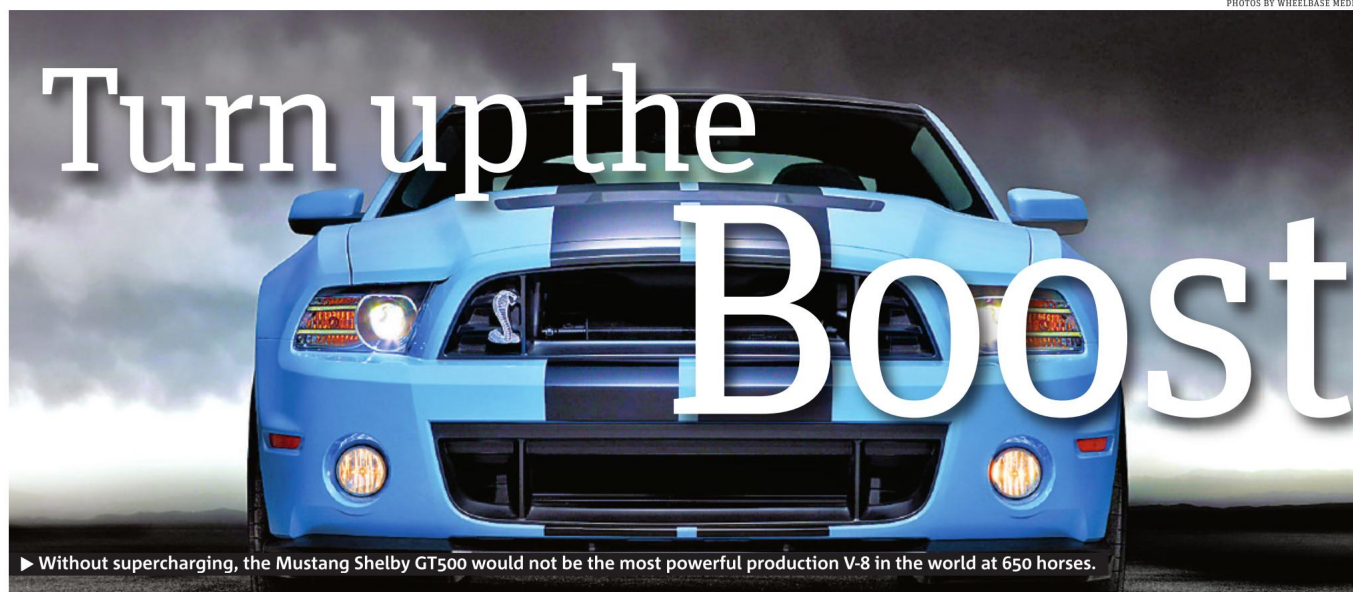
Forced induction has entered a new era. Yes, another one. In its last few eras, turbocharging in particular has definitely had mixed reviews. The 1974 Porsche Turbo? Wonderful! The 1982 Buick Grand National? Hot dang! The 1984 Dodge Caravan Turbo? Say again?

The Porsche and Buick definitely characterized the turbo's wild years, when the technology was all about in-your-face performance. Chrysler's turbo fling in the 1980s was essentially a way for the embattled automaker to stretch its four-cylinder engine across more nameplates, until it could secure some V-6 troops.

Two main factors are shaping the current era of turbocharging: the proliferation of diesel engines; and the human and government cries for better fuel economy. A side benefit is the ability to make plenty of horsepower for special applications.

Government push

"Turbocharging is in a developing stage in North America, but it will trend toward mainstream, as the U.S. EPA emission and fuel requirements drive toward



► Without supercharging, the Mustang Shelby GT500 would not be the most powerful production V-8 in the world at 650 horses.

a 35 mpg fleet average in 2016," said Tom Grissom, director of business development for BorgWarner turbo and emissions systems, one of the world's largest providers of automotive turbochargers.

"Fuel efficiency is best achieved through smaller displacement engines. But if you simply downsize the engine, there will be customer dissatisfaction ... (turbocharging) allows you to maintain the performance that customers expect."

Wheelbase Media caught up with Grissom just as he was leaving for China to oversee the completion of BorgWarner's new technical centre in Shanghai. The company also signed a deal to supply turbocharging systems to First Automotive Works (FAW), for the automaker's recently developed 1.3-litre and 2.0-litre gasoline engines, which is indicative of China's market shift to smaller-dis-

90%

Ford says that by 2013, more than 90 per cent of its North American nameplates will be available (standard or optionally) with an EcoBoost powerplant.

placement engines outfitted with turbocharging systems. The automaker at the forefront of this "mass market turbo deployment" in North America is Ford.

The company's new EcoBoost engines feature both direct fuel injection (which sprays the fuel into the combustion chambers instead of the intake manifold) and turbocharging. The automaker says these engines compete with larger engines in terms of power and torque, but better them in fuel efficiency.

Diesel Push

But BorgWarner says the largest growth potential for turbocharging systems worldwide might be with diesel engines.

You've probably noticed that virtually every diesel engine introduced in the last few decades — whether on the passenger car side or on the heavy-duty truck side — has been a turbocharged diesel. The reason for this is simple, and relates to the very basic definition of turbocharging.

A turbocharging system employs a "turbine" to harness engine exhaust flow. The power of the spinning turbine is used to compress and push air into the cylinders. The more air you can get into any given space, the more fuel you can burn there, and the bigger the "bang." Unlike a gasoline engine, which uses a spark to help set off the bang, the diesel explosion is created by compression. So, the

more air you can get in there, the better and cleaner it can burn.

The black smoke you see coming from old diesels is too much fuel in the combustion chamber, compared to the amount of available air. A turbo can pack that cylinder with the appropriate amount of air.

You're probably saying, "why not just limit the amount of fuel going into the cylinder?" Yes, you can do that, but the result is feeble power.

Technology Push

Mercedes-Benz introduced the first turbo-diesel automobile in 1978 with its 300 SD. VW's first turbo-diesel arrived in 1981. Both dramatically improved the diesel experience.

One of the major turbo milestones was the advent of water cooling in the 1980s for the turbine's bearings. At full song, a turbine can spin at more than

200,000 r.p.m. Connected to the red-hot exhaust manifold, the problem of heat is amplified.

"So when you shut down the engine, you have a lot of heat energy that can soak back into the turbocharger and damage its bearings. Water cooling now absorbs that latent energy, so there is no impact on the bearings," says Grissom. Today's turbos benefit from a host of advanced electronics while the engines themselves benefit from stronger internal components, more precise machining and improved oil and oiling systems.

"We design and build turbochargers for the useful life of the vehicle," says Grissom.

The result is big power from a small package, that, for the most part, runs without the turbocharger since it's used for acceleration. It's extra power only when you need it.

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A smart design in a small space

► Because the Scion iQ is so tiny, engineers had to get creative

DRIVING FORCE

JILL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONWS.CA

One of the major issues when designing a vehicle is space. Cars have a lot of components and only so much room in which to fit them. It was a considerable challenge for Toyota with the tiny iQ recently

introduced in its Scion brand.

"We used a collection of different engineering approaches for different components, which allowed us to make this size of vehicle but still have the functionality of a larger vehicle," says John-Paul Farag, manager of advanced technology and powertrain for Toyota Canada.

"The vehicle must have fuel efficiency, agility and

safety within a small package."

The first challenge was designing what Toyota says is the world's smallest air conditioning system. It isn't enough to simply downsize everything. If there isn't enough space between the fan blades, or if the blades are too thin, the system won't get enough air and it won't work properly.

The company had to come up with a new manu-

facturing technique to produce smaller but more rigid blades.

The blower and a/c unit were integrated into a single unit that fits behind the dash. Getting cold air to the occupants was also challenging. The engineers came up with a simplified design that reduced the number of curves in the ductwork, improving the airflow.

"There are always trade-offs," Farag says.



► The Scion iQ boasts what Toyota deems as the world's smallest air conditioning system.



► Fuel efficiency, agility and safety are all a part of the iQ's small package.

Did you know?

It takes more fuel to move a car with a full tank of gas, due to its weight. The tanks are designed to carry just enough fuel for average driving use, since a larger tank will reduce fuel efficiency.

comfortable.

A flat-bottom steering wheel provides more legroom for the driver. The dash uses an asymmetrical design that sits the front passenger further ahead than the driver for more rear-seat room, without affecting the driver's visibility.

"We were dealt a challenge with this vehicle for space, and we dealt with it by new engineering and designs," Farag says.

©2011 Porsche Cars Canada Ltd. Porsche recommends seat-belt usage and observance of all traffic laws at all times. Optional equipment shown is sold separately.



*Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of a 2011 Panamera 4. †Optional equipment. Taxes, registration fees, dealer delivery fees, and destination charge included. Dealer sets actual price, and may call for loan.

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Mazda takes a rotary break

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Mazda didn't invent the rotary engine. Felix Wankel did that in Germany in 1957. But no other automaker, individual, or concern, poured their heart, soul and mind into the rotary engine concept as did the Japanese company from Hiroshima.

Mazda bet heavily on the technology, but soon found the going tough.

Legend has it, that the 47 men who comprised the company's Rotary Research Division toiled 24-7 over many months to overcome every obstacle in their way.

The number 47 has special significance in Japan. All countrymen know the story of the 47 Samurais in feudal Japan who revenged their dishonoured lord after years of hardship.

Mazda's 47 Samurais also fought for honour, the engineering honour of their company and country.



► The 2012 model year will be the last for Mazda's RX-8.

In 1967, Mazda's rotary engine got its first "serial production car" assignment — the Cosmo Sport.

Cosmo's twin-rotar engine has two 491 cc chambers, and spins out 110 hp at 7,000 r.p.m. The low-volume two-seat, sports coupe was only produced for a couple of years, but looked fetching, and set the tone for Mazda's seminal rotary-engine sports coupes: three generations of the RX-7, and then the RX-8.

In 2010, Mazda had to pull RX-8 from the European market after it failed to meet that jurisdiction's emission standards. With another year of small and waning sales in 2011, the writing was on the wall for the RX-8's departure from other markets — including North America, and now Japan.

Model-year 2012 will be the very last for the RX-8, and the only 2012 models to be had will be 1,000

"Spirit R" models built exclusively for the Japanese market.

Mazda has had a rotary engine car in its Japanese lineup since that 1967 Cosmo. So that streak is done like dinner, kaputt, finis. (I would have liked to throw a Japanese phrase in there too, but my Japanese is limited to food court selections... teriyaki, udon noodles, sashimi, etc.).

Where Mazda goes with rotary technology is any-

body's guess. Mazda has always maintained that the rotary engine is particularly suited for hydrogen fuel, and has developed several hydrogen-rotary projects, including the RX-8 Hydrogen RE.

There are reports that Mazda has a new rotary engine in development, code-named 16X, but the company is not saying very much about it.

For now the company based in Hiroshima seems

very focused on SkyActive — a series of technologies for the internal combustion engine.

It's always a little sad when good things come to an end. But stay strong my friends.

Better to cry for Argentina than the rotary... Because the betting money is on Mazda resurrecting the rotary engine at some point in the future, even possibly on some bright, sunny day.

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Frontier has proven to be 'dependable'

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The Nissan Frontier began moving into Canadian driveways as a 1998 model that replaced the Hardbody pickup family.

The Frontier offered more selection and power, and intended to move the brand's small pickup heritage forward.

A compact truck intended to battle the Ford Ranger, Dodge Dakota, Chevrolet Colorado and Toyota Tacoma, Frontier packed plenty of selection and capability.

1998 to 2005 Nissan Frontier



Engine

Look for a 2.4-litre, 143-horsepower four-cylinder on earlier models, as well as a 3.3-litre V-6 with 170 horsepower, or a supercharged variant thereof, producing 210 ponies. Frontier's four and six-cylinder engines could both be teamed with manual or automatics.



What owners like

Existing Frontier owners are big-time into the styling of their machines, as well as their real-world workability. Many owners report satisfaction with overall comfort and off-road capability, too.



What owners dislike

Common complaints include modest power output from the four-cylinder engine and some low-budget interior trim pieces. Additionally, many owners confirm that the Frontier's interior space is on the compact side.



Common issues

Be sure all interior accessories are working and ensure you're able to shift in and out of four-wheel drive modes as outlined in the owner's manual with no undue fuss. While underneath, look for any oily fluid leaking from the bottom of the engine, the differential and the transfer case, if so equipped.

Ultimately, numerous pages of reports from Frontier owners online looked encouraging. Words like "dependable" and "excellent" came up frequently.

Verdict

A visit to your Nissan mechanic is in order for an inspection if you're uncomfortable beneath the truck. Your dealership can also determine if any recall work may be outstanding.



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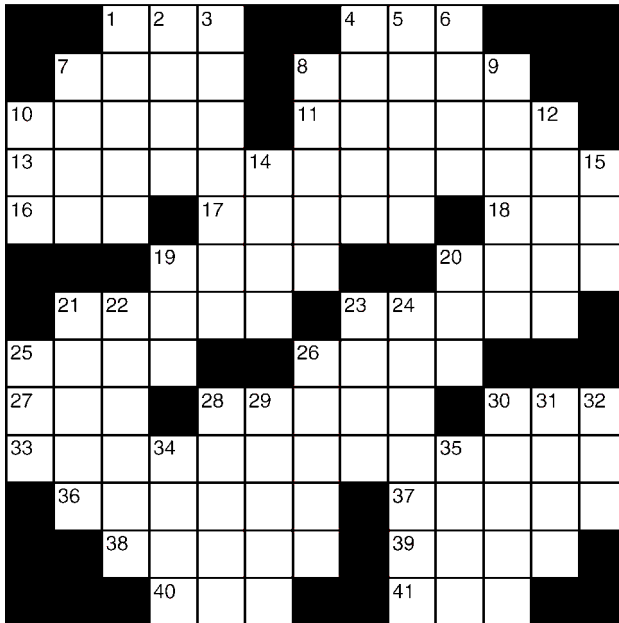
Crossword

Across

- 1 Suitable
4 Young boxer?
7 Litigious sort
8 Middle Eastern dish
10 Bethlehem's region
11 Ball game segment
13 New Orleans neighborhood
16 Barbie's companion
17 Hosiery shade
18 Shaft of light
19 "An Inconvenient Truth" narrator
20 Enticement
21 Chris of tennis lore
23 19th President
25 Leave out
26 Cartoonist Goldberg
27 Help
28 Inscribed pillar
30 "Suburgatory" ailer
33 Ice cream flavor
36 Evening affair
37 Sorrow
38 Slow critter
39 Ear-related
40 Spring mo.
41 A Bobbsey twin

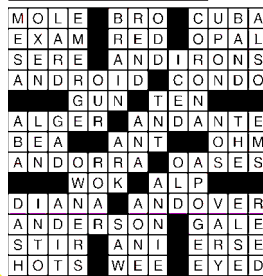
Down

- 1 Poet W.H.
2 Hammerhead part
3 Farm vehicle
4 Piece of cheese-cake?
5 Arm bones
6 Twosome



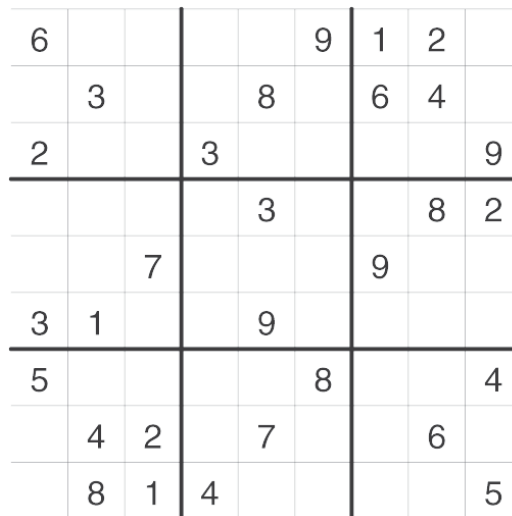
- 7 Confident
8 Sharp irritation
9 False
10 NYC airport
12 Toothed wheels
14 Rodgers partner
15 "Catcher in the —"
19 Obtain
20 Caustic solution
21 Eastern potentates
22 "America's Funniest Home —"
23 Island dance
24 Desert
25 LummoX
26 Carouse
28 Discard
29 Alternative to "his/her"
30 Texas Hold 'em declaration
31 United nations
32 Automobile
34 1942 vessel
35 Tittle

► Yesterday's answer



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

4	5	8	7	6	9	2	1	3
1	6	2	8	3	5	7	4	9
3	9	7	1	4	2	8	5	6
6	4	3	5	2	8	9	7	1
8	7	1	4	9	6	3	2	5
9	2	5	3	7	1	6	8	4
2	3	4	6	5	7	1	9	8
7	1	6	9	8	4	5	3	2
5	8	9	2	1	3	4	6	7

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min -6° Max -3°	Min -10° Max -5°	Min -12° Max -3°

Michele McDougall
Weather Specialist

"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes". WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM



Today's horoscope

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 You may find it hard to get a straight answer out of certain people over the next 24 hours.

♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Someone's dishonesty may shock you greatly, but you really should have noticed it before. Open your eyes.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 A colleague may be too vocal in his or her criticism, but there's an element of truth in what is said.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 If you take on too much, you will sooner or later reach a point where it starts to go wrong.

♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug. 23 Don't let anyone talk you out of doing something on which you have your heart set. You know it'll work.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Someone in a position of power may be critical of your work today but don't let it get to you. Maybe he or she has a valid point.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 This is one of those times that if you let negative events get to you, your mood could be darkened for days.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Yes, much may be falling apart — but much more still works beautifully.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Push ahead with your plans today, even though others say you are aiming way too high.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You're too negative in your outlook. Don't let it get out of hand.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You should seek assistance from people whose knowledge about specific topics is superior to yours.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. Someone will deceive you today. Keep your annoyance to yourself. Revenge is a dish best served cold.

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Caption contest



WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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